funds to implement the orders of the Supreme Court for banning employment of children in hazardous industries and mines, as per Article 24 of the Constitution of India;

(b) the precise demands made by different State Governments in this regard; and

(c) the Government's response thereto, indicating the number of child labour to be rehabilitated in each State?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) In the State Labour Ministers conference held on 22.1.97, there was a general demand from all the states for financial assistance from the Central Government for giving effect to the judgement of the Supreme Court.

(c) The Central Government is already meeting full expenditure on the 76 National Child Labour Projects presently functioning in different States covering about 1.04 lakh children. While primarily it is the responsibility of the State Governments to provide necessary funds for taking up of activities in compliance of the directions of the Supreme Court, the Central Government is considering if some funds could be released at the district level for conduct of survey. The number of working children to be rehabilitated would depend on the result of the survey which is required to be completed by 10th June, 1997.

Proposal to Recast the pattern of investment of PF money

980. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to recast the pattern of investment of Provident Fund money to ensure a higher yield for PF subscribers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Central Board of Trustees is opposed to investing the Provident Fund money in the private sector; and

(d) if so, the reactions of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (d) A proposal for revision of the pattern of investment of the Provident Fund/Pension Fund is under consideration of the Government.

Special Reserve Fund (SRF) for payment of PF benefits

981. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Special Reserve Fund (SRF) was set up under EPF scheme for payment of PF benefits in respect of the employees employed in defaulting establishments;

(b) whether this fund has been utilised for payment of employees' and employers' share in case defaulting PSUs like JESSOP, MANC, NTC etc. registered with BIFR; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) A special Reserve Fund (SRF) has been created by the EPF Organisation so as to ensure disbursement of employees' share of PF deducted but not paid by the Unexempted Establishments to the Fund. The provisions have been further liberalised and now SRF is also utilised for payment of employees' as well as employers' share of contributions to the outgoing members of the unexempted establishments which are under liquidation or closed continuously for more than five years. The employees of NTC mills are entitled to payment of PF from the SRF as per the conditions prescribed under the scheme. M/s JESSOP & MANC are exempted establishments and as such their employees are not eligible for payment of PF from the SRF.

Representation for reforming labour laws

982. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations for reforming labour laws in our country;

(b) if so, the general nature of the demand for reform made by the trade and industry;

(c) the Government's response to it; and

(d) by when reforms are likely to be implemented?